

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: TRAVEL OF AMSPECS SOLOTAROFF AND WATTENBERG

STATE FOR CU/EE, EUR/SOV

LENINGRAD FOR P&C

USIA FOR IEU, ICS

REF: A. STATE 250492 B. MOSCOW 14939 C. MOSCOW 15099
D. STATE 249220

1. REQUEST WAIVER OF REGULATIONS CITED REF A TO ALLOW BOTH SOLOTAROFF AND WATTENBERG TO ARRIVE MOSCOW ON MONDAYS. PANAM SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE OCTOBER HAS INCOMING FLIGHTS ONLY ON SUNDAY. SOVIET SPONSORING AGENCIES, AS IN CASE OF SOLOTAROFF, NOT RPT NOT WILLING TO RECEIVE GUESTS ON NON-WORKING DAYS. IN ADDITION, ARRIVAL ON NOVEMBER NINE WOULD COME DURING LONG SOVIET REVOLUTION DAY WEEKEND HERE WHEN HOTELS AND OTHER FACILITIES JAMMED. SOVIETS HAVE ASKED US NOT TO HAVE PEOPLE ARRIVE ON WEEK-ENDS AND DEFINITELY NOT DURING NOVEMBER HOLIDAYS. IN CASES OF WATTENBERG, SUNDAY ARRIVAL WOULD COME IN MIDDLE OF THREE-DAY EMBASSY HOLIDAY.

2. WHEN GRANTEES ARRIVE EVENINGS OR WEEKENDS, IT IS DIFFICULT TO REACH APPROPRIATE SOVIETS TO SOLVE POSSIBLE PROBLEMS, FOR EXAMPLE, AMSPEC CHARLES MILL AND WIFE ARRIVED UNREQUESTED ON SUNDAY DURING LABOR DAY WEEKEND, WITH VISAS DATED TWO DAYS LATER. ONLY LONG HASSLE AT AIRPORT BY P&C PROJECT OFFICER KEPT MILLS
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FROM BEING DETAINED IN LOCKED ROOM AT AIRPORT TRANSIT FACILITY.

THIS "VICTORY" TOOK PROJECT OFFICER TEN HOURS AT AIRPORT THAT SUNDAY.

3. ANOTHER EXAMPLE: MINCULT REFUSED TO MEET CHARLES NEIDICH, ALSO SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE ON WEEKEND. WHEN HIS PLANE INADVERTENTLY DELAYED, P&C OFFICER COULD NOT RPT NOT CONTACT RESPONSIBLE SOVIET OFFICIAL REGARDING ACCOMMODATIOS. AFTER LONG SERIES OF PHONE CALLS AND PLEAS TO STUDENT HOSTEL GUARDS, EMBASSY FINALLY WAS ABLE TO ARRANGE PLACE TO SLEEP ON ASSURANCE MINCULT WOULD FIX EVERTHING ON NEXT WORK DAY. TIME SPENT ON ARRIVAL: SIX HOURS.

4. DEPT. ALSO REQUESTED CHECK ACCURACY FLIGHT DATA AND VIASAS ALL OFFICIAL EXCHANGE VISITORS. WE RECEIVED ERRONEOUS FLIGHT DATA ON RECENT MARKS AND BRONFENBRENNER SCHEDULES AS WELL AS ON CASES CITED ABOVE.

5. SINCE STRICT ADHERENCE TO DIRECT TRAVEL FOR INCREASING NUMBER AMSPEC AND OTHER EXCHANGEES MEANS THAT SUNDAY WILL BE NORMAL ARRIVAL DAY, DEPT. REQUESTED ROUTE SUCH VISITORS VIA AMERICAN CARRIER TO NEARBY WEST EUROPEAN TRANSFER PONT AND ARRANGE FINAL LEG OF TRAVEL ON FOREIGN CARRIER AFTER REST NIGHT. SEE REF D. REQUEST THIS PROCEDURE SOLOTAROFF, WATTENBERG TRAVEL AS PER REFS. B, C.

6. RE SOLTOTAROFF DEPARTURE, UNION OF WRITERS PLANNING ACTIVITIES THROUGH NOVEMBER TWENTY-FIVE. REQUEST DEPARTURE RESERVATIONS BE CHANGED TO NOVEMBER TWENTY-SIX. STOESEL

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